

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computerized system for selecting a cargo carrier and arranging transportation for cargo, the system comprising:
a host computer system having access to data of each of a plurality of cargo carriers, the data representing cargo transportation options available from each of the cargo carriers;

Internet access means connecting the host computer system to a user;

means in the host computer system for prompting the user for and receiving from the user information concerning cargo to be transported and transportation preferences; and

means in the host computer system for comparing the user information with the available cargo transportation options and sending to the user at least one of the available cargo transportation options best matching the user information.

2. The computerized system specified in claim 1 wherein the data of a cargo carrier is electronically delivered to the host computer system.

3. The computerized system specified in claim 1 wherein the host computer system is linked to a computer system of each of the cargo carriers by an Internet link for accessing the cargo carrier data.

4. The computerized system specified in claim 1 wherein the data from the cargo carriers includes at least one of marine, air, and land cargo options.

5. The computerized system specified in claim 1 wherein software of the host computer system receives the information input from the user and sends the available cargo transportation options to the user in an interactive manner.

6. A system for arranging for cargo transportation by a selected cargo carrier comprising the steps of:

providing a host computer system;

linking cargo carrier computer systems of a plurality of marine, air, and land cargo carriers to the host computer system, each cargo carrier computer system having data representing cargo transportation options available from the associated cargo carrier including departure, arrival and space availability information;

accessing the host computer system through an internet connection;

transmitting information from a user to the host computer system about cargo that is to be transported and transportation preferences; and

comparing in the host computer system the user information and the available cargo transportation options and sending to the user at least one of the available cargo transportation options best matching the user information.

7. The system specified in claim 6 including a step of booking transportation of the cargo through the host computer system to the cargo carrier computer system of the one of the cargo carriers selected by the user after receiving the at least one of the available cargo transportation options best matching the user information.

8. The system specified in claim 7 including a step of tracking the cargo during its transportation by the selected cargo carrier after the step of booking transportation.

9. The system specified in claim 6 including wherein the data of the cargo carrier computer systems also includes price and payment information.

10. The system specified in claim 6 including wherein the data of the cargo carrier computer systems also includes agent information.

11. The system specified in claim 6 including wherein the data of the cargo carrier computer systems also includes bill of lading information.

12. The system specified in claim 6 including wherein the data of the cargo carrier computer systems also includes customs information.

13. An on-line interactive system for selecting a cargo carrier and booking transportation of cargo comprising the steps of:

providing a host computer system;

linking cargo carrier computer systems of a plurality of marine, air, and land cargo carriers to the host computer system, each cargo carrier computer system having data representing cargo transportation options available from the associated cargo carrier;

accessing the host computer system through an internet connection;

transmitting query information over the internet connection from the host computer system to a user requesting information about cargo that is to be transported, the query information being based upon the available cargo transportation options; and

transmitting user information over the Internet connection from the user to the host computer system responding to the query information, the user information including transportation preferences based upon the cargo transportation options available.

14. The system specified in claim 13 wherein the host computer system includes software to receive the user information, analyze the user information, determine possible cargo transportation option matches with the transportation preferences, and send to the user the possible cargo transportation option matches.

15. The system specified in claim 14 wherein the host computer system sends to the user price information for the possible cargo transportation option matches.

16. The system specified in claim 14 including a step of booking transportation of the cargo through the host computer system after the step of sending to the user the possible cargo transportation option matches.

5

17. The system specified in claim 16 including a step of tracking the cargo during its transportation by the cargo carrier selected after the step of booking transportation.

10 18. The system specified in claim 13 wherein the host computer system sends agent information for the available cargo transportation options to the user.

15 19. The system specified in claim 13 wherein the host computer system sends bill of lading information for the available cargo transportation options to the user.

20 20. The system specified in claim 13 wherein the host computer system sends customs requirements information for the available cargo transportation options to the user.